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be applied to Mr. Reade ; when at his best, as in this case, he justifies his own infraction of them. It is as impossible to resent the means by which he introduces to us such a chapter as this already famous one on women in medicine, as it is to quarrel with the management of Hardie's exposure of mad-houses in "Very Hard Cash," or the preternaturally acute and infallible Eden in "Never Too Late to Mend." Neither Hardie nor Eden nor Rhoda Gale is to be tried by the every-day standard of quiet probabilities ; each of them is the entirely possible embodiment of one intense idea, which each impresses on the reader with a force that keeps it clearly marked when the whole surrounding incident and action of the story is forgotten. The man who can do this may be forgiven much besides, and yet be called a master. We may smile as we will at the way in which Mr. Reade's novels are remembered and referred to, — "This was the insane asylum story" ; "That was the book about women doctors" ; but when we gain the power to fix our own leading idea so firmly and exactly in the public mind that it can never be drawn out again, and will always be a tingling reminder of an abuse or its remedy, we see that this is no small matter. As to the function of the novel in the case, that is an old question between Mr. Reade and certain of his critics ; and one we gladly leave to their debate.

11. — *Mesmerism, Spiritualism, etc., Historically and Scientifically Considered.* By Dr. W. B. CARPENTER. New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1877. 12mo. pp. 152.

THIS little volume contains in an enlarged and completed form two lectures which the author originally delivered before the London Institution, and has since published as contributions to *Fraser's Magazine*. His effort is to show that what is called spiritualism is an epidemic delusion, like the delusions which have prevailed in past times in regard to magic, witchcraft, mesmeric clairvoyance, and things of that sort, and that its phenomena may be fully accounted for on rational principles without assuming the existence of hitherto unknown forces. His chief reliance is upon the well-known fact that where the mind is subjected to a dominant idea it is predisposed to see, feel, and hear the things it expects to see, feel, and hear, and is thus easily deceived by its own fancies. This he calls the state of expectancy, and avers that no reliance is to be placed upon the testimony of persons affected by it. He further declares that most of the performances of spiritual mediums are performed by trickery, and that all of them, so far as they contradict uniform experience, are absurd. His proofs and illustrations are

abundant, but unsystematically arranged, and we fear that his reasoning will fail to convince persons not already in agreement with him in their views of the subject. An appendix to the volume furnishes much interesting historical and scientific information, though we observe that in a letter printed on an inserted leaf one document, purporting to be an exposure of the tricks of the Fox sisters, is withdrawn by Dr. Carpenter as untrustworthy.

12. — *Special Report to the Honorable the Minister of Education on the Ontario Exhibit, and the Educational Features of the International Exhibition at Philadelphia.* By J. GEORGE HODGKINS, LL. D., Deputy Minister. Toronto, Canada : Hunter, Rose, & Co.

THE Province of Ontario in Canada has given us an example of energy in its educational department which deserves the warmest commendation. Dr. Hodgkins, the Deputy Minister of Education, who represented the Province at the International Exhibition at Philadelphia, in his official capacity has furnished a most elaborate report, not merely on the Ontario exhibit, but on the educational features of the Exhibition generally, which is full of the most useful and valuable information. The report is addressed to the Hon. Mr. Crook, the indefatigable and able Minister of Education for Ontario, and that gentleman has exercised a wise discretion in having it published for general circulation. As a work of reference on the present state of education throughout the world, this report is of great value outside of the Province of which it especially treats. It contains not merely an account of the present state of education in the more important countries, but includes statistics illustrating the condition of countries which had no exhibit at Philadelphia. Altogether the reader is furnished with the educational data of nearly eighty countries, and the details which Dr. Hodgkins has collected in regard to some of them are full of novelty and interest. Twelve pages are devoted to a consideration of the past and present system of education in Japan, which offer a striking testimony to the progressive tendencies of that newly opened empire. The information in regard to the systems of education now in operation in Russia, Egypt, Chili, and other little known countries, will doubtless be new to our readers, and will enable them to contrast the intellectual condition of races whose civilization is still only partially developed with those who are supposed to have reached the most advanced stage. It will be found that the percentage of those receiving education in some of these countries is higher than the position usually conceded to them in the